



Avondale OKs paying \$2 mil of I-10 overpass project

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The Avondale City Council has agreed to pay more than \$2 million to replace the Interstate 10 overpass over 107th Avenue.

Fortunately for the city, the overpass will have to be widened as part of an Arizona Department of Transportation freeway expansion on I-10 from Loop 101 to Sarival Road.

So rather than Avondale getting stuck paying for the entire overpass widening project, ADOT will pay for half of it.

"The ADOT improvements to the freeway during the widening impact the bridge structure, so therefore the agreement (was reached) for the city and ADOT to partner and to each pay for half of the replacement," the Avondale Engineering Department said in a written statement.

The total cost of the overpass widening project is more than \$4 million, which originally was to be borne entirely by Avondale. The city has to widen 107th Avenue in anticipation of future increased traffic.

ADOT has been working with the city to complete the plans to replace the bridge overpass.

Avondale has jurisdiction of 107th Avenue under I-10, and ADOT has jurisdiction of the I-10 freeway.

The Avondale Transportation Plan calls for the widening of 107th Avenue to six lanes, but the overpass on I-10 is not wide enough to support the freeway over the wider 107th roadway.

Now that the freeway will be widened to five lanes in each direction, ADOT would have to widen the overpass anyway. Avondale, Litchfield Park and Goodyear recently joined together to accelerate the freeway widening, because of the ever-increasing congestion on the freeway.

That gridlock is making the freeway unsafe, with accidents happening with more frequency.

The construction of the new lanes of freeway will begin early next year.

ADOT will be widening I-10 in two parts. The first part will widen the median to provide an additional general purpose lane and a new HOV lane.

Design for the median widening is complete and is scheduled to go out to bid soon.

The bridge replacement will take place during the I-10 median widening project, the Avondale Engineering Department

indicated.

The second part of the freeway construction will widen the outside of the freeway for an additional general purpose lane. That lane is under design.

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